

By: Harris of Anderson, et al.

H.B. No. 624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to emergency medical transport by fire fighters of certain patients.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 773.0043 to read as follows:

Sec. 773.0043. FIRE FIGHTER EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS; MEDICAL TREATMENT AND TRANSPORT OPERATING GUIDELINES. (a) In this section, "fire fighter" means:

(1) an individual who is defined as fire protection personnel under Section 419.021, Government Code; or

(2) an individual who is a volunteer fire fighter certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection or the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 773.041, a fire fighter, regardless of whether the fire fighter is licensed as an emergency medical services provider, may transport a sick or injured patient to a health care facility in a vehicle other than an emergency medical services vehicle if:

(1) the appropriate emergency medical services provider:

(A) is notified of the patient's clinical condition; and

(B) is unable to provide emergency medical

1 services imminently at the patient's location; and

2 (2) the medical treatment and transport operating
3 guidelines for the patient's apparent clinical condition authorize
4 transport of the patient in a vehicle other than an emergency
5 medical services vehicle.

6 (c) Each trauma service area regional advisory council
7 shall develop the medical treatment and transport operating
8 guidelines necessary to implement this section for the area served
9 by the council and provide notice of the guidelines to the emergency
10 medical services providers and fire fighters in that area.

11 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2024, each trauma
12 service area regional advisory council shall develop medical
13 treatment and transport operating guidelines necessary to
14 implement Section 773.0043, Health and Safety Code, as added by
15 this Act, and provide notice of the guidelines to the emergency
16 medical services providers and fire fighters in the area.

17 SECTION 3. Section 773.0043, Health and Safety Code, as
18 added by this Act, applies only to transportation provided on or
19 after January 1, 2024.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.